

'Critical Intersections: the 12th Biennial Conference of the Association for Academic Language and Learning, University of Wollongong 25-27th November 2015'

SUPPORTING TRANSITION IN THE CLOUD



UNISTART MAKEOVER

UniStart ▶ Home | Resources | Collaborate | Assessment v | More v

Start Here
Orientation is more than just O Week. Learn how to use this site, and much more.
▶ learn more

The Big Picture
So you have just started Uni? Where do you begin? Right here.
▶ learn more

Digital Tools
Deakin's online learning environment enables interactive and engaging learning.
▶ learn more

Study Success
There is no magic to study success – you get better at it over time.
▶ learn more

The Personal Journey
Turn your challenges into opportunities.
▶ learn more

Links
Essential Deakin links and further reading on all topics.
▶ learn more

News ▶
DeakinSync | Mail | Calendar | Lync | OneDrive

UniStart workshops ▶
Feedback

Deakin and you
Try it yourself

How much do you know about studying at Deakin?
Complete this [self-assessment](#) to test your knowledge about studying at Deakin and to explore some options for study strategies.

Learn more about study strategies and about studying at Deakin:

- Read this essential Deakin resource for new students: [Get Ready](#)
- Attend an [Introduction to studying at university](#) workshop in O-Week
- Attend a [Study Skills workshop](#)
- [Talk to a student mentor or a Language and Learning Adviser](#)



DEAKIN

50,000 current students

24% cloud learners

15% international

21.1% regional

14.3% low SES

27.2% mature age 25-39

10.5% mature age 40+



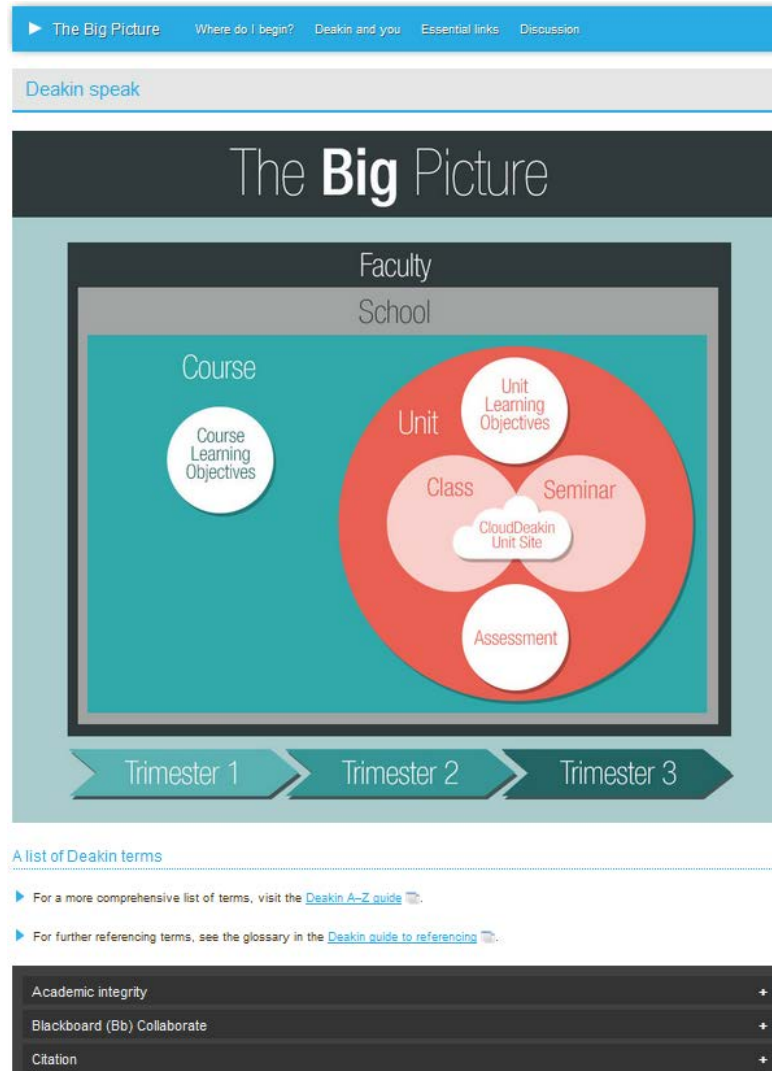
Students who are ‘first in family’ are less likely to seek help, less likely to have an effective support network, and may find it more difficult to embrace the new identity of being a university student. (Talebi, Matheson & Anisman 2013)

**Orientation is not an event but a process.
(Kift, Nelson & Clarke 2010)**

**It is often students’ experiences during the transition period that determine their expectations throughout their course.
(Nelson, Kift & Clarke 2008)**



THE PROJECT



COLLABORATION



Start Here



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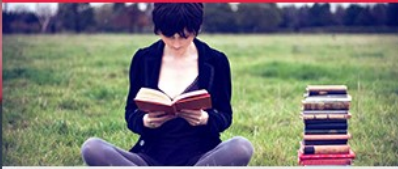
Digital Tools



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Essential Deakin links and further reading on all topics.

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[News](#) ▼

[Sessions](#) >

[Feedback](#) >



► Digital Tools Deakin online CloudDeakin Connect, share & collaborate Essential links Discussion

Welcome to Deakin online

Deakin Unistart - Digital Tools

Get started with CloudDeakin
CloudDeakin activities
Submitting an assignment
Turnitin
Portfolio

Welcome DeakinSync IT resources and support

Welcome

DeakinSync, Skype for Business, CloudDeakin – you might have heard some of these names already, but what exactly are they and what can they do for you?

This module provides an overview of some of the digital tools you will be expected to use at Deakin and how these tools can help you study more effectively. All the following tools are free to Deakin students – and there is much more too! For further details, see the [Essential Deakin links](#) section at the end of this module.

Make the most of the support on offer to become a more confident user of these tools. There are students and staff, on campus and online, just waiting to help you.

“If you have any questions about how to use these tools, ask a student mentor in the [Digital Tools discussion forum](#).”

Learn more about digital literacy and using the Library in the [Study Success](#) module.

Your username and password

Use your Deakin username and password to access all Deakin online resources. Your [username and password](#) are confidential. To protect your personal information, treat your Deakin account details in the same way as your bank account details.

Start Here The Big Picture Digital Tools Study Success The Personal Journey Links

► Study Success Independent learners Library Assignments Communication Essential links Discussion

Critical thinking

Being a critical thinker is very similar to being a private investigator.

At University, you will find yourself doing a lot of reading, acquiring new skills and knowledge in your area of study. But then what do you do with all of this knowledge?

Learning is not just about acquiring facts, figures and other people's opinions. It is also about recontextualising knowledge, problem-solving and analysing information. As a University student, you need to engage in critical thinking.

Critical thinking means not passively accepting what we read, hear or see. Instead, we actively question, make judgements about underlying assumptions, and evaluate information. It also involves reflecting on our own thinking processes, carefully considering other people's points of view, trying to avoid being blinded by our own biases and emotions, and coming to an informed decision.

At University, you will be expected to use critical thinking to analyse articles, books, reports, internet material and other media. You will be expected to use logic and clear reasoning in all of your assessments, and to support your position with evidence.

Critical analysis starts with asking questions

It is **your job** as an academic student to ask questions and to hold other people's ideas and words up to scrutiny.

In many ways, being a critical thinker is very similar to being a private investigator:

- you question what people say and write
- look at assumptions
- explore connections
- consider what might be missing,
- examine the type and amount of evidence available
- and then come to your own conclusion in a systematic, evidence-based way.

Make a start

Download and save a copy of the [Critical thinking template \(DOCX\)](#). Use these questions as a guide when you do your reading. Create and save a new document for each new reading.

Learn how to use some typical phrases used to express critical thinking in the [Academic phrasebook](#) produced by The University of Manchester.

Start Here The Big Picture Digital Tools Study Success The Personal Journey Links





The Big Picture

So you have just started Uni? Where do you begin? Right here.

Where do I begin?



- ▶ I wish I had known that!
- ▶ Checklist: Your first trimester
- ▶ A few tips for new students
- ▶ Deakin speak
- ▶ Cloud learning

Deakin and you



- ▶ Making connections
- ▶ Your career starts now!

Essential Deakin links



- ▶ Get supported and get involved

Discussion



- ▶ The Big Picture discussion





Study Success

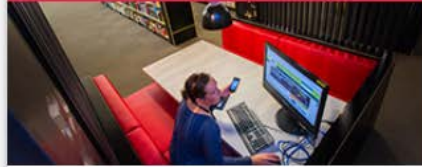
There is no magic to study success – you get better at it over time.

Independent learners



- ▶ Tips for early success
- ▶ Time management
- ▶ Critical thinking
- ▶ Reflective learning
- ▶ Checklist: Being an independent learner

Library



- ▶ Getting to know your Library
- ▶ Checklist: My Library

Assignments



- ▶ Beginning your assignment
- ▶ Reading and note taking
- ▶ Referencing and academic integrity
- ▶ Self assessment: Referencing and academic integrity
- ▶ Checklist: Beginning an assignment

Communication



- ▶ Effective communicators
- ▶ Groupwork


Essential Deakin links



- ▶ Study support and more

Discussion



- ▶ Study Success discussion 



PROMOTION


ARE YOU A NEW STUDENT OR RETURNING TO STUDY AFTER A LONG BREAK?

Unistart is a self-access resource to help you make a great start.

Find Unistart in your list of CloudDeakin units:

- hear student stories
- get tips from lecturers
- learn about IT tools
- make connections.

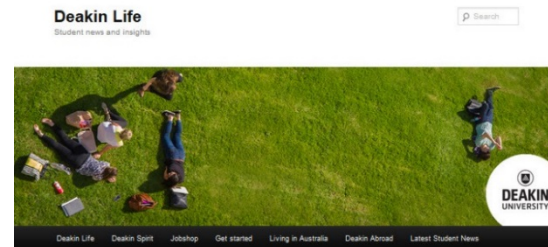


Visit Unistart now:
deakin.edu.au/students/study-support/new-students



UNISTART

Cloud workshops and resources.
Supporting students to make a great start.

deakin.edu.au/unistart



Posted on July 14, 2019 by Fiona Greig

[Previous](#) [Next](#)

UniStart – a great place to start in the Cloud



UniStart is a self-access CloudDeakin resource for new and returning students, where you can learn about life and expectations at Deakin, online tools, assignments and referencing. It is also a place where Cloud students can connect with other students and a whole range of Deakin support services.

There are also some great UniStart workshops to introduce new Cloud students to University study. These workshops are delivered by Language and Learning Advisers, Library Librarians and Writing Mentors, and you can register for them via [DeakinSync](#) or [here](#).

Things to know:

- All students are automatically enrolled in UniStart.
- Log in via your [DeakinSync](#) homepage.
- For more information, watch the [UniStart](#) video.

[More news from this edition](#)

 **Deakin Life** @DeakinLife · Nov 8
UniStart: Introduction to studying at University workshops running this week.
bit.ly/1jjqxXq

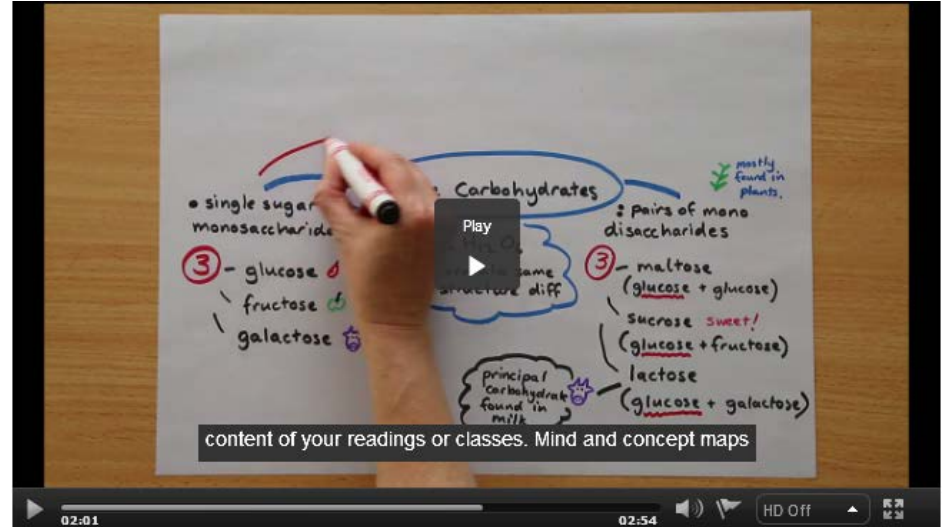


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STUDENT ACTIVITY

- 5,517 users
- 228 forum posts
- 6,262 Turnitin activity attempts
- 3,400 views of UniStart videos



From the student survey:

- 59% of users were cloud students
- 48% UG, 38% PG c'work, 23% international, 20% mature



STUDENT FEEDBACK

The “Being an independent learner” topic was most helpful as my course is delivered online.

I like hearing about other people’s experiences, and it felt comforting to know that if life does take a turn, the Deakin Team will be able to offer support and guidance.

It is easy to follow and loads of information. I don't feel so nervous with the expectations of assignments.

I found the critical thinking information the most helpful as this will make note taking and referencing for my readings more effective.



FURTHER OUTCOMES

- Strengthened relationships and resource sharing
- Increased student engagement
- Positive feedback from student survey
- Consolidating our resources and service
- Raised profile across the Uni
- 2015 VC Award for Student Experience



CHALLENGES

During production

- Finding the right people
- Auditing a uni website
- Coordination of contributors
- Staff access

Cloud learning at Deakin

By studying in the cloud, I had to increase my self-discipline, commitment and organisational skills... I found out quickly that being a cloud student doesn't give you any extra time to complete tasks.

Sarah Salvo, Deakin student

Deakin provides flexible study options through online learning or 'cloud learning', as it's known at Deakin. However, with freedom comes responsibility. Students engaged in cloud learning are expected to be highly independent and motivated learners. The tips below relate not only to Cloud Campus students (who attend classes and seminars in the cloud only), but to **all Deakin students** navigating the online space.



Preparing

Trimester checklist

Support and resources

Preparing for cloud learning

Ongoing


- Updating resources!
- LLAs with Tech skills essential
- Student access pre-orientation
- Promotion – and keeping it relevant and visible



QUESTIONS?

► Start Here About Feedback Discussion

How to use this site



Before you start Navigation Activities Who are we?

Before you start

- Need [IT Help](#) to set up your device(s)?
- Make sure your browser does not block video content in this site. We recommend using **Mozilla Firefox** on a PC or **Safari** on an Apple. Read more about [checking your browser settings in CloudDeakin](#).
- At the beginning of your first trimester, attend an ["Introduction to studying at University" session](#) (face-to-face or online) and take a [tour of your Deakin Library](#), in addition to using UniStart.
- Find a list of common Deakin terms in **Deakin Speak** in The Big Picture module.
- Read the following section: 'Navigation'.

> Study Success video

> UniStart site

